

HOUSE RESOLUTION 268

By Daniel

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Knoxville Catholic High School boys' basketball team upon winning the TSSAA Division II Class AA State Championship.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are pleased to specially honor and commend those successful school athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary group of student athletes is the Knoxville Catholic High School Fighting Irish boys' basketball team, which achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2019-2020 season by capturing the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Division II Class AA State Championship; and

WHEREAS, during their dominant tournament run at the Allen Arena at Lipscomb University, the young men of Knoxville Catholic High School displayed the utmost skill and ability on their path to claiming the first state championship in the school's history; and

WHEREAS, the team earned this remarkable achievement in a 50-47 win over Briarcrest Christian School in the finals, a close game that came down to the Fighting Irish team's stalwart defense and determination; the tournament win caps off a dominant 25-4 season; and

WHEREAS, the state championship win was made possible by coherent team play, competent coaching, and the extraordinary skill of the members of the team, including Akeem Odusipe, who finished the game with nine points, thirteen rebounds, and two blocks, and Division II Class AA Tournament MVP and TSSAA Mr. Basketball award finalist BJ Edwards, who totaled fourteen points, eight rebounds, and four assists; and

WHEREAS, the Fighting Irish roster also includes Alan Arvidson, Nathan Breeden, Christopher Cain, Dylan Carroll, Presley Patterson, Nicholas Renfree, John Sheringham, Benjamin Sompayrac, Sam Sompayrac, Handje Tamba, and Joshua Turbyville; and

WHEREAS, the hard work and skilled play of the Fighting Irish are a great source of pride for Coach Mike Hutchens, Assistant Coaches Tony Scott and Geraud Hall, Athletic Trainer Matt Schaller, Knoxville Catholic High School, and the entire Knoxville community; and

WHEREAS, the young men of the Knoxville Catholic High School boys' basketball team have displayed ability, teamwork, and perseverance, and with the help of their coaches, parents, teachers, school administrators, supporters, and many fans, they have represented their school and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless character both on and off the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, during this incredible championship season, the members of the Knoxville Catholic High School Fighting Irish etched their names into the annals of Tennessee sports history; their dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent not only made possible a successful and memorable basketball season but also surely point toward their success in future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate the members and coaches of the Knoxville Catholic High School boys' basketball team upon winning the TSSAA Division II Class AA State Championship and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.